

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1098

By Windle

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Ernest B. Geesling for meritorious service.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Army; and

WHEREAS, Ernest B. Geesling has served with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for heroism in World War II; and

WHEREAS, a member of this Nation's greatest generation, Mr. Geesling served with great bravery and ability during World War II in the United States Army's 100th Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable division was the first unit ever to fight its way through the Vosges Mountains of eastern France, the first to seize the Citadel at Bitche in its 250 year history, and the only division to hold its ground during Germany's powerful last attack on the Western Front, Operation NORDWIND; and

WHEREAS, the men of the redoubtable 100th Division fought laudably during the attack on the German city of Heilbronn in April of 1945, one of the 100th Division's proudest moments and its last battle; the week-long conflict required an assault crossing of the Neckar River in small boats entirely exposed to German forces and artillery in order to defeat the foe and seize the strategic industrial city; and

WHEREAS, for these combat actions, the 100th Infantry Division received streamers for the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe campaigns, and its subordinate units were awarded a total of eight Distinguished Unit Citations; and

WHEREAS, the stalwart men of this division earned numerous individual awards, including three Medals of Honor, thirty-six Distinguished Service Crosses, more than 500 Silver Stars, and more than 4,500 Purple Hearts; and

WHEREAS, a noteworthy soldier in the 100th Infantry Division, Ernest Geesling performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism; his service can only be categorized as outstanding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Ernest B. Geesling for meritorious service in the United States Army during World War II and offer our thanks for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.